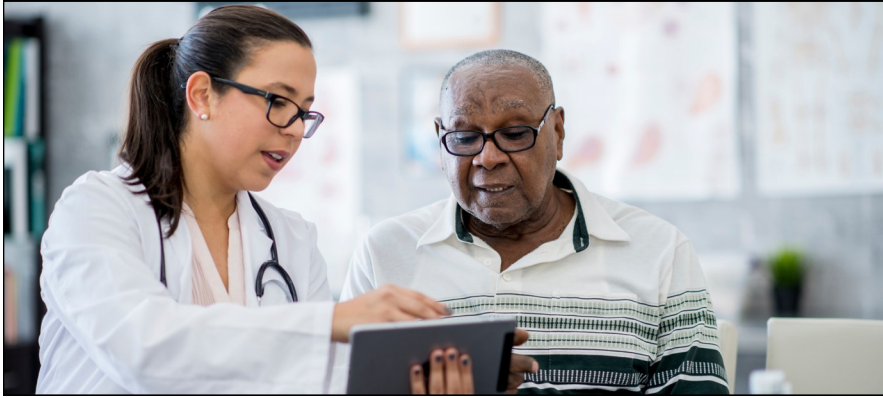


VETERANS UPDATE

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MARCH, 2020

UNDERSTANDING DIABETES TEST RESULTS



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new campaign in February to help better inform diabetic Veterans about critical health information.

The campaign educates Veterans and their families on hemoglobin A1C, glucose, kidney tests, and other vital measurements.

“One in four Veterans enrolled in VA health care services has diabe-

tes,” said VA Secretary Robert Willkie. “This public health campaign encourages Veterans to be proactive with their health care teams by improving their understanding of diabetes test results.”

If you are a diabetic Veteran, or a caregiver for one, ask your health care team about diabetes tests, treatment goals, medication and nutritional management.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12, 1 - 3 p.m., Women Veterans Celebration, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building. Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Raum. Celebrating women Veterans of all eras and branches of service for their contributions across the generations.

March 21, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Be There for Our Women Veterans Event, the Vet Center, 2038 Warwick Ave., Warwick. Learn about women Veterans’ health care and benefits.

April 10, 11 a.m. - 1p.m., Job Fair at the Providence VAMC, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital building. For Veterans, families and VA employees — all are welcome!

HELP FIGHT THE FLU AND OTHER VIRUSES

When you sneeze or cough, raise your sleeve to your mouth. This helps stop viruses from spreading.

Cold and flu season is still here! Help fight the flu and other viruses with these precautions: wash your hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home and away from others when you are sick.

If you didn’t get your flu shot, it’s not too late. Enrolled Veterans can still get a flu shot during their medical appointments at a VA medical center or local VA clinic, or even walk-in at a Walgreens with a VA Healthcare ID.



NEW PARKING GARAGE NOW OPEN!



Cutting the ribbon on a new parking garage at the Providence VA Medical Center, Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 5, 2020. From left to right, E.J. McQuade, director of the VA Providence Regional Benefits Office; Matt Goulet, associate director for patient care at the VA Providence Healthcare System; Ryan Lilly, director of the VA New England Healthcare System; from the VA Providence HCS, Erin Clare Sears, acting director, Dr. Satish Sharma, chief of medical staff, and Leslie Pierson, acting associate director for operations; and Kasim Yarn, director of the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services. (VA Providence Healthcare System photo by Winfield Danielson).

VA New England Healthcare System Director Ryan Lilly cut the ribbon for a new parking facility at the Providence VA Medical Center Feb. 5, 2020.

The garage, which opened following the ribbon-cutting, parks 450 cars, benefiting Veterans, visitors, employees and volunteers alike. Parking at the Providence VAMC's urban campus had become a serious challenge, as the medical center experienced an increase in the number of Veteran appointments.

Funding for the 18-month, \$16 million project came through Section 255 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. This was the first project awarded

under the increased minor construction project threshold of \$20 million. Jarrett Construction Company, of Montgomery, Ala., was the general contractor.

"The garage has really helped free up parking on campus in general," said Erin Clare Sears, acting director of the medical center. "But it's only averaging about half-full, so I encourage everyone to give it a try."

The new parking garage is just one of many projects currently underway at VA facilities across the country. The Consolidated Appropriations Act provided VA with \$2 billion above the department's Fiscal Year 2018 request for infrastructure improvements.



Photos showing progress on the parking garage construction project at the Providence VA Medical Center from Feb. 26, 2019, left, to Feb. 4, 2020, the day before opening.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Office of Community Care
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

VA Benefits Information
800-827-1000

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
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Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence